#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Cozart, Jermie E.

Via EFS-Web

In re application of:

Eduard Bruehwiler et al. Art Unit: 3726

Application No.: 10/775,125

Filing Date: 11 February 2004 Attorney Ref. No.: 003-115

For: Method of Installing Spiral Threaded Inserts and

Installation Tool for Carrying out the Method

#### DECLARATION OF EDUARD BRUEHWILER UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

#### Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

- 1. I, Eduard Bruehwiler, am an inventor of subject matter described and claimed in U.S. patent application number 10/775,125 ("this application").
- 2. I wrote an Invention Disclosure containing subject matter described in this application prior to 13 December 2002 while I was employed by ALSTOM as an engineer in Switzerland. A copy of portions of the Invention Disclosure is attached to this Declaration at Exhibit A, the dates having been reducted or deleted.
- 3. Substantial duplicates of Figures 1, 2, and 3 of this application are contained in the Invention Disclosure, at page 4 of Exhibit A.
- 4. Substantial duplicates of Figures 4 and 5 of this application are contained in the Invention Disclosure, at page 10 of Exhibit A.
- 5. A substantial duplicate of Figure 6 of this application is contained in the Invention Disclosure, at page 11 of Exhibit A.
- 6. Substantial duplicates of Figures 7 and 8 of this application are contained in the Invention Disclosure, at page 9 of Exhibit A.
- 7. A substantial duplicate of Figure 9 of this application is contained in the Invention Disclosure, at page 10 of Exhibit A.
- 8. Instructions for insertion of a spiral threaded insert, called a "Helicoil", are contained at page 8 of Exhibit A.

- Att'y Ref. No. 003-115 U.S. App. No.: 10/775,125
- 9. Prior to 13 December 2002, the invention disclosure was sent to the intellectual property department of ALSTOM Technology LTD. The first page of the Invention Disclosure includes an inked receipt stamp, near the top right corner in a box labeled "Receipt Confirmation Intellectual Property", including the acronym "CHSP", which was the prior acronym for the intellectual property department.
- 10. Prior to 13 December 2002, the invention disclosure was sent to an external patent attorney for drafting a patent application. Attached at Exhibit B are redacted copies of an email from Dr. Evamaria Pöpper, ALSTOM's internal patent attorney in charge of this application, to me, announcing that the invention disclosure had been sent to the external patent attorney for drafting, and of a letter from Dr. Pöpper to the external patent attorney requesting that a patent application be drafted based on the Invention Disclosure.
- 11. On 8 January 2003, a draft patent application, based on the Invention Disclosure, was received by the intellectual property department of ALSTOM from the external patent attorney. That draft was received by me on 9 January 2003. Attached at Exhibit C are redacted copies of a letter from the external patent attorney to Dr. Pöpper that accompanied the draft of the patent application, and internal ALSTOM memos from Dr. Pöpper to me and co-inventor Graham Young that accompanied a copy of the draft of the patent application.
- 12. On 4 February 2006, Graham Young sent the draft patent application, including corrections, back to the intellectual property department of ALSTOM, which was forwarded back to the external attorney for revision on 4 February 2003. Attached at Exhibit D is a redacted copy of a letter from Dr. Pöpper to the external patent attorney that accompanied the draft patent application bearing the corrections.
- 13. The finalized version of the patent application was received by the intellectual property department of ALSTOM from the external attorney on 6 February 2003. Attached at Exhibit E is a redacted copy of a letter from the external patent attorney to Dr. Pöpper that accompanied the final draft, which includes ALSTOM's receipt stamp dated 6 February 2003.
- 14. The finalized patent application was filed with the German Patent and Trademark Office on 13 February 2003, and was assigned application number 103 05 898.2.
- 15. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and

that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.





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Grahan Young

# Helicoil Extraction & Insertion Tool: Patent Application

See document HTCT433253 on PDM for full details on operation.

### **Problem**

Large industrial gas turbines require regular inspection of internal parts to maintain efficient and reliable running. Inspection access to internal parts is made through inspection ports at various points in the gas turbine which are sealed with Inspection plugs. The plugs are screwed into helicoiled holes in the large internal castings. Sometimes removal of the plugs on a regular basis causes damage to the helicoils and so they require replacement.

However, replacing a helicoil which is situated inside the main housings of the GT has previously been impossible until a major outage when main casings are opened.

These two inventions can be used to successfully remove and replace helicoils in small cavities.

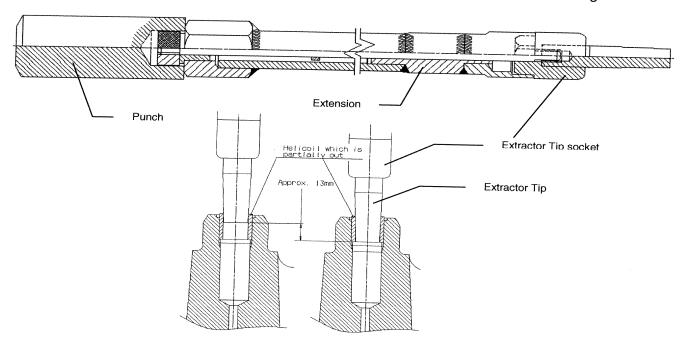
### **Inventions:** 1. Helicoil Extraction Tool

#### 2. Helicoil Insertion Tool

#### 1. Extraction Tool

This tool is simple but has proven effective in the field. It comprises of a hardened square tapored extractor punch which is hammered into the top of the damaged helicoil that requires removal. The four sharp edges cut into the helicoil so that a turning force can be given to unscrew the old helicoil. The critical angle of the four edged sharp extractor is such that a small radial force is exerted on the helicoil so keeping friction to a minimum and increasing the chance of successful removal.

The extractor tip can be easily removed and replaced when the edges become damaged.



1) Because the Tool penetrales the Helicoil, it will not be lost from the tool during removal out of the housings

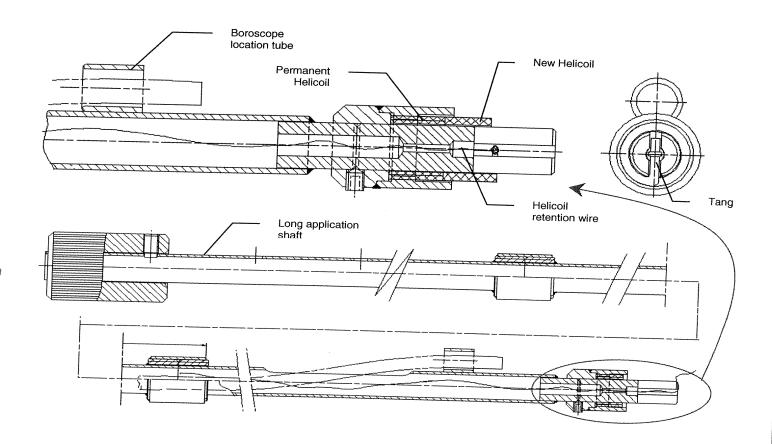
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#### 2. Insertion Tool

The insertion tool can be used to effectively replace helicoils once the old damaged ones have been removed.

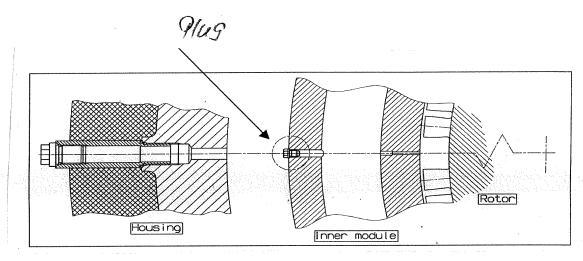
The main features of the tool provide:

- captivation of helicoil in tool until inserted into helcoil thread form. The tool can therefore be used on inverted positions without fear of loosing the new helicoil with in the internals of the GT.
- removal of the 'Tang' from the location once it has been broken off by the end of the tool. The tang is retained by the wire until the tool is removed from the engine.
- correct orientation of the new helicoil onto the helicoil thread form so that it can be screwed in position easily and without cross threading. Other attempted prototype tools and the current helicoil applicator tool from 'Helicoil' do not provide square seating for the new helicoil so when it is offered to the threaded hole the thread cannot be screwed into position. The new tool avoids this problem by using another helicoil, permanently seated within the tool, which provides an exact mating surface onto which the new helicoil sits squarely.
- Boroscopic access for easy tool positioning and alignment with enclosed threaded hole.

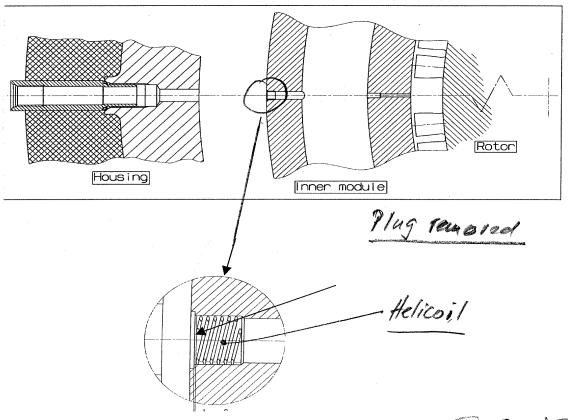


### Implementation

These tools have been manufactured and successfully used on numerous Gas Turbine sites



hadine closed, operation condition



SITUATION

### MA – Assembly Instruction

# Helicoil Replacement for Rotor Alignment Inspection Ports

### 1)Validity

• GT24, GT26 (A,AB,B)

For GT's which have suffered helicoil damage or partial extraction within rotor alignment inspection ports during routine inspections (locations: see section 4).

### 2) Aim

These assembly instructions describe the extraction and replacement of damaged helicoils using the tools:

HTCT321268: Helicoil Extraction Tool

HTCT321150: Helicoil Insertion Tool

#### 3) Content

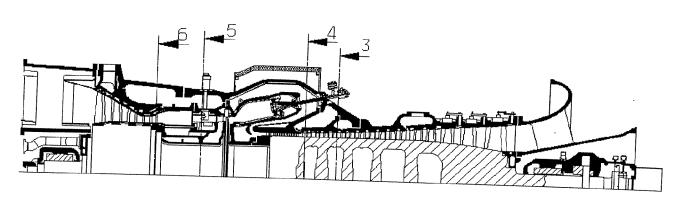
- 1. Validity
- 2. Aim
- 3. Content
- 4. Helicoil Locations
- 5. Check Helicoil Condition and Position
- 6. Helicoil Extraction on a closed gas turbine
- 7. Helicoil Insertion on a closed gas turbine
- 8. Attachments

# 4) M20 Helicoil Locations: Inspection Planes 3,4,5,6: total 16 helicoils

Plane 3: CVC1 x 4 Plane 4: CVC2 x 4

Plane 5: Rotor Cover x 4

Plane 6: TVC x 4





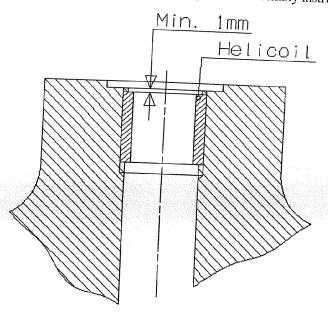


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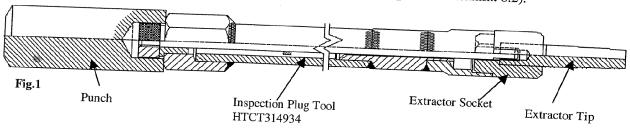
### 5) Helicoil Condition and Position

To determin whether helicoils require replacement check there location within the gas turbine with the boroscope. The helicoil should be below the countersunk face as shown below. If the helicoil has been partially extracted by the plug removal then replace the helicoil according to these assembly instructions.

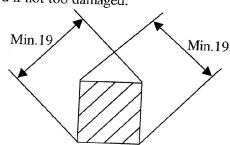


## 6) Helicoil Extraction Instructions

Step 1: Using the existing inspection plug box wrench (HTCT314934 see attached section 8.1) apply the helicoil extractor tool to one end and screw the extractor tip into position (see fig. 1 and attachment 8.2).



Note: Ensure the extractor tip has sharp edges for cutting into the helicoil. They can be re-sharpened if not too damaged.

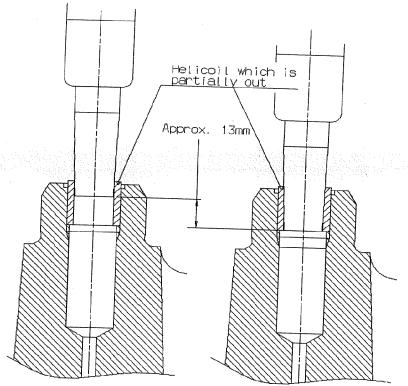


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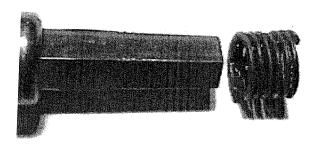
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Step 2: After unscrewing the outer and inner inspection hole plugs, feed the tool into the inspection port until the extractor enters the helicoil (be sure!). Hold the punch adaptor (see fig.1) on the end of the plug box wrench. This will protect it when hit with a hammer. Hit the end of the tool with a 1kg hammer fairly hard. The extractor tip will cut into the helicoil. Two or three hits may be necessary before the tool feels as though its 'bottomed out'. The tool should have sunk approximately 13mm into the helicoil which can be checked with a pencil line(made before outside GT).see sketch below



Step 3: Remove the punch and using a socket with associated extension bar or wrench, place on the end of the plug tool and turn anticlockwise. A large turning force maybe required to overcome the resistance of the helicoil seating, maybe in the order of 100 Nm. Unscrew until the helicoil is completely free. Remove the tool from the inspection port with the helicoil still attached to the extractor.



# 7) Instructions for the Helicoil Insertion

Revision:

- After the old helicoil has been removed using the extraction tool HTCT321268, the new helicoil can be applied using the Helicoil Insertion Tool HTCT321150 (see fig. 7.4) as follows:
- Step 1- Re-tap the receiving Helicoil thread in the GT with the M20HC TAP. This will ensure the thread is clean for the new Helicoil. When retapping, ensure that no lubricants or cutting compounds are used.
- Step 2- New helicoil preparation- Place the new helicoil (M20 x 1D /HTCT402771 P2020) onto the replacement tool with the tang inline with the intended borescope position. The support collar should now be adjusted with the socket set screw so that there is approximately a 5mm gap between the end of the thread on the new helicoil and the start of the thread on the support helicoil within the tool (see 7.1).
- Step 3- a) Helicoil Preparation- The new helicoil must be tied to a piece of 0.4mm nylon line (approx. 3.5m long). A 'hangmans' knot, shown in 7.2, would be suitable and give good retention. The 'line' has two functions. The first being to retain the new Helicoil within the tool during insertion and the second to remove the 'Tang' once it has been broken off. The knot must be located centrally on the Tang as shown in 7.3 and
  - b) Pass the line through the tool as shown (fig.7.2) :with the help of a welding rod if needed. Place the new helicoil into position on the tool with the tang (start of helicoil thread) inline with the intended borescope position as in step 2. Assemble the tool as shown in Fig (7.4) feeding the line through the extra extensions\*. Pull the line taught with a light pressure so that the Helicoil stays in position. Tie the remaining 'slack' line
  - \*Note: the tool can be assembled giving three different lengths depending on which extension pieces are used. This should be identified by checking access to Turbine
- Step 4- To aid helicoil insertion, feed the boroscope into the extension tube and locate the end in the radial support as shown in the assembly drawing (fig. 7.4). The borescope support tube is aligned so that the line of sight shows the start of the Helicoil thread and therefore should aid entry into the female counterpart.
- Step 5- Insert the tool into the required rotor measurement entry port on the GT. Locate the Female HC thread on the GT and offer the new Helicoil into position with the aid of the borescope. Start helicoil insertion with an initial half clockwise turn. Extract the Borescope from the extension tube. Counting the number of turns of the tool, sink the new Helicoil another 7 complete turns into its new housing(7.5 in total). The helicoil should now be recessed 1.2...2.0mm down from the sealing surface.
- Release the tension on the nylon line and pull the tool out from the hole slightly (50mm), turn it through 90 degrees and then plunge downwards quickly but not forcibly and break off the Tang. The tool can then be removed form the GT and the Tang can be pulled from the hole with the slack nylon line. CAUTION -never turn the tool anticlockwise

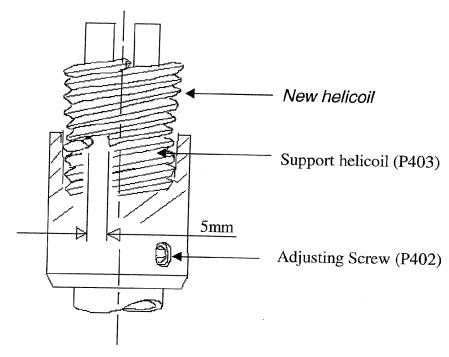


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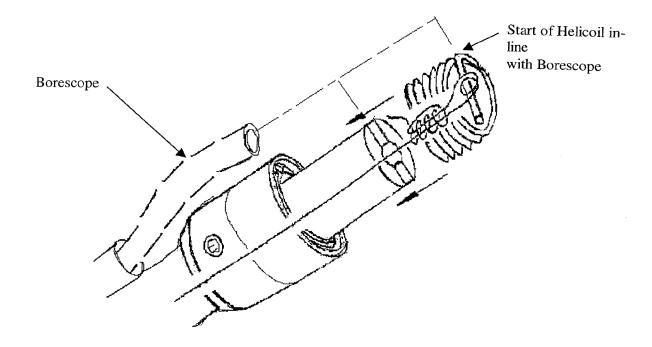
**Note**: As an extra pre-caution, the helicoil position within the housing may be checked before the tang is broken off.

After 8.5 turns the nylon line must be slack and the tool withdrawn from the hole allowing more line to pass through the tool. Keeping the tool near to the hole, insert once more the Borescope. Insert the tool slowly taking up slack in the line. Check the helicoil location with the borescope and check the helicoil is below the surface of the countersink by at least one 'thread pitch'. If this is so then break off the Tang as described above and retrieve with the line.

### 7.1 Diagram showing adjustment of support collar



### 7.2 Helicoil connected to nylon line

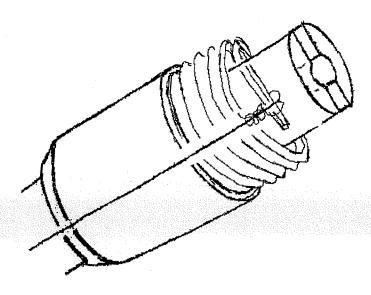




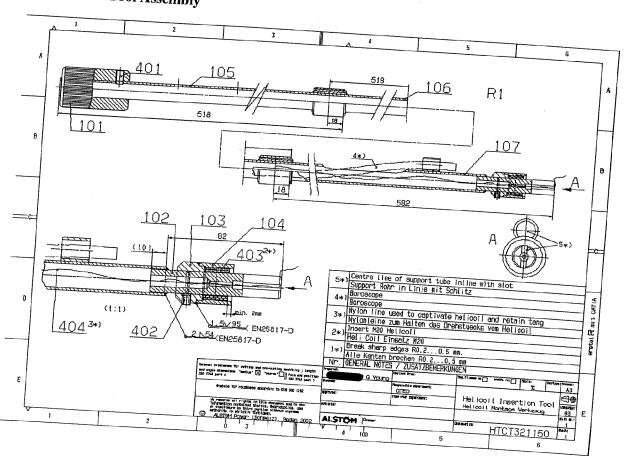


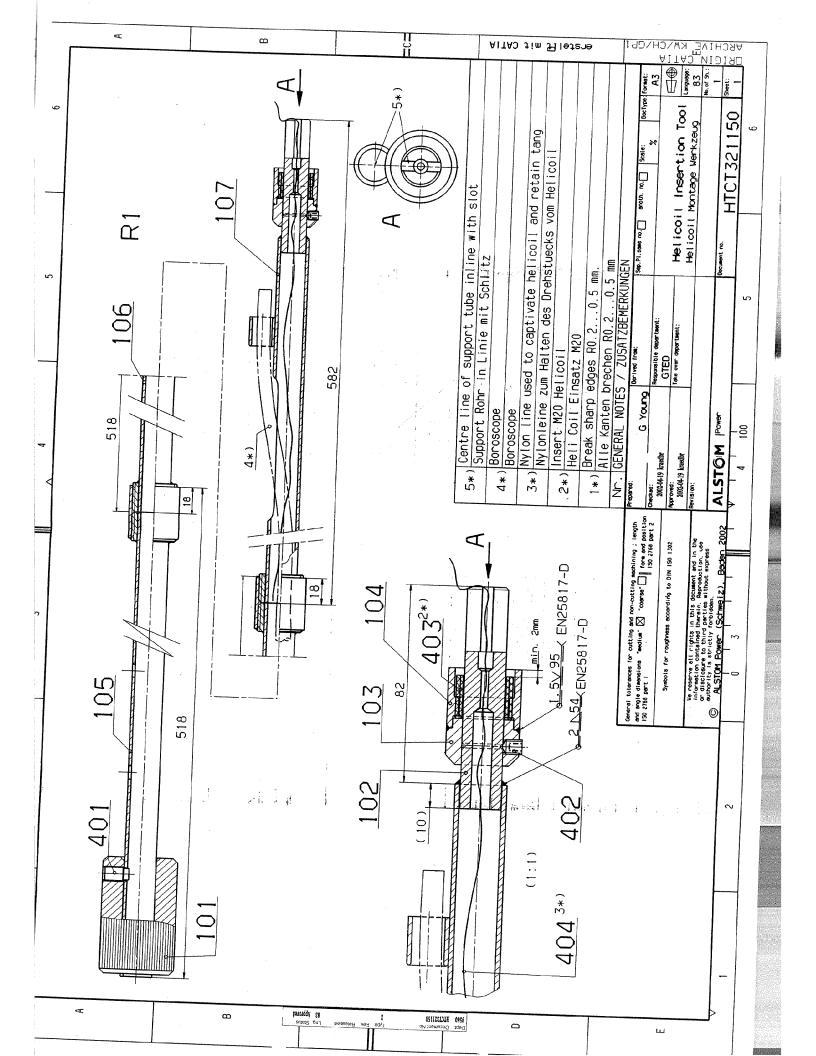
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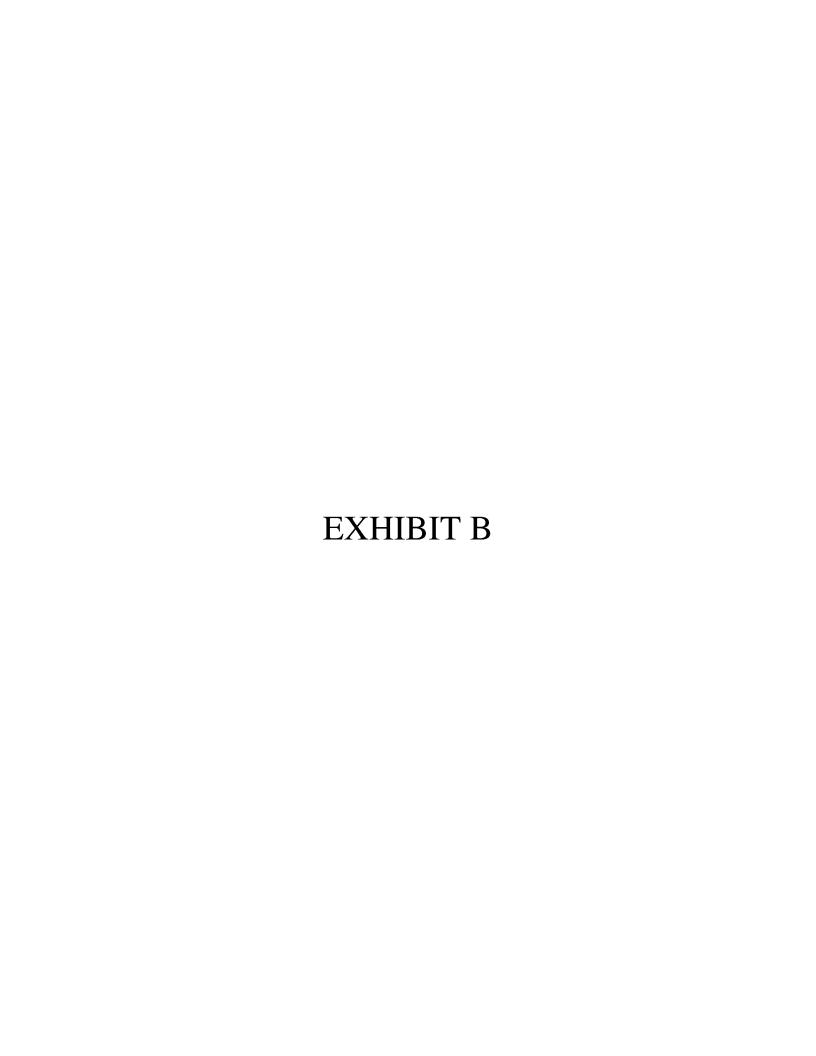
# 7.3 Helicoil Mounted on Tool and Ready for Assembly



# 7.4 Insertion Tool Assembly









Best regards Evamaria Pöpper

### Evamaria Poepper/CH/CRN/ALSTOM

16:10 (Phone: +41 56 205 45 99, Dept.: CHSP)

То:	Graham	Young/CHBAD01/Power/ALSTOM@GA, Edi Bruehwiler/CHBAD01/Power/ALSTOM@GA
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attorney you in ca	se he ha	ed that I have sent your above-mentioned invention disclosure to our external patent Zurich, for preparation of a draft application. Mr. will directly contact is questions regarding the technical background of the invention. aft by the end of January 2003.

CONFIDENTIALITY: This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and may be privileged. If you are not a named recipient, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to another person, use it for any purpose or store or copy the information in any medium.

# **ALSTOM**



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ihr Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom:

Unser Zeichen (bitte widerholen):

B02/178-0

Datum:

Neue Patentanmeldungen "Screw insert insertion tool" B02/178-0

Sehr geehrter

In der Anlage sende ich Ihnen eine Kopie der Erfindungsmeldungen B02/178-0 und zu mit der Bitte um Ausarbeitung von einreichungsfertigen Unterlagen für zwei deutsche Patentanmeldungen. Bitte fertigen Sie zusätzlich eine englische Bezugszeichenliste und eine englische Zusammenfassung an.

Als Ansprechpartner bei Fragen zum technischen Sachverhalt stehen Ihnen in Baden Herr Graham Young - für die B02/178-0 und die (Tel. 056 205 3042, Kommunikation möglichst in Englisch) und Herr Eduard Brühwiler - für die B02/178-0 - (Tel. 056 205 8286) zur Verfügung.

Den von den Erfindern aufgeführten Stand der Technik habe ich ebenfalls beigelegt.

Als Termin für den Entwurf haben wir 31.01.2003 vorgesehen.

Vielen Dank im voraus.

Mit freundlichen Grüssen

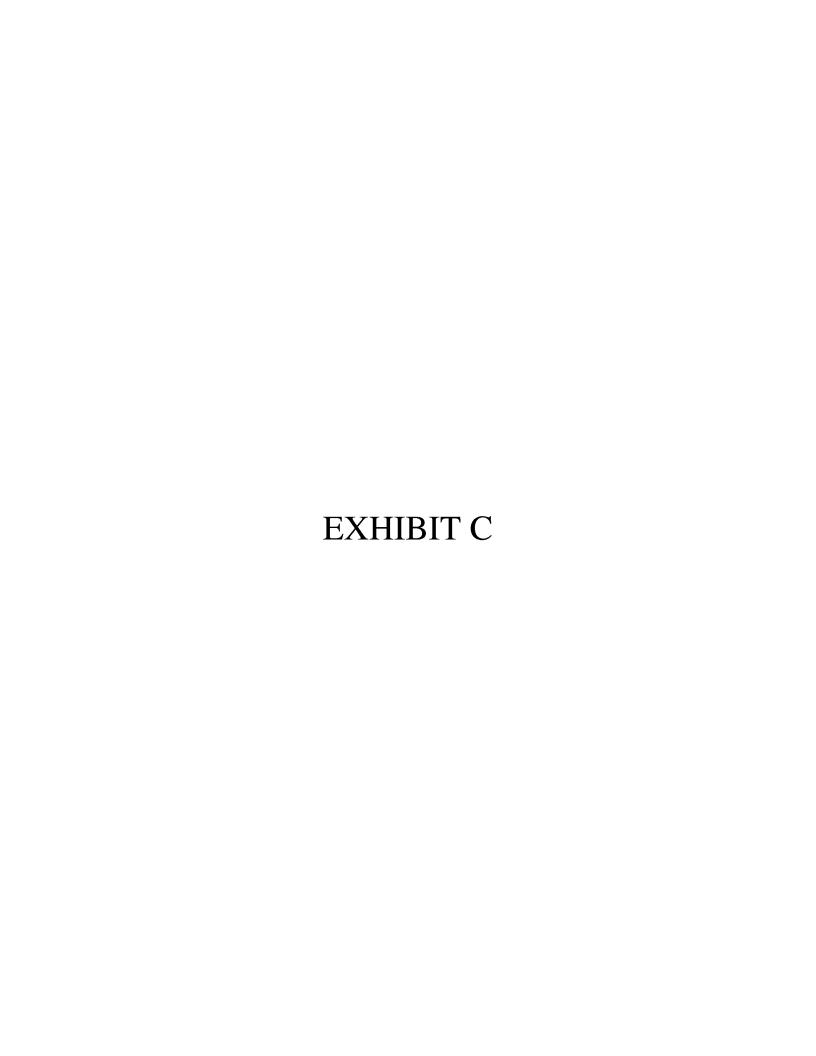
ALSTOM (Switzerland) Ltd

CHSP Intellectual Property

(Dr. Evamaria Pöpper)

Anlagen: wie erwähnt

ALSTOM (Switzerland) Ltd

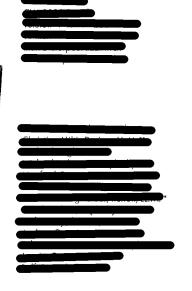


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Frau Dr. E. Pöpper CHSP Geb. 699/5.Stock

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European Patent Attorney

Rechtsanwalt - Attorney-at-Law

\*\*\* Rechtsanwalt (zugelassen in Deutschland)

Telefax Nr.: 056 205 66 20

Ihre Ref./your Ref. Uns. Ref. / our Ref.

B02/178-0

Datum / Date

07. Januar 2003

### Neue geplante Patentanmeldung Screw insert insertion tool

Sehr geehrte Frau Dr. Pöpper

In der Beilage erhalten Sie unseren Entwurf für die geplante Neuanmeldung zur Durchsicht. Bitte prüfen Sie den vorliegenden Text auf Vollständigkeit und inhaltliche Richtigkeit. Falls Sie noch Ergänzungen und Änderungswünsche haben, so bitten wir Sie, diese handschriftlich in den Text oder im Änderungsmodus der Textverarbeitung in die elektronische Version einzutragen und uns die geänderte Version zurückzureichen.

Gerne erwarten wir Ihren weiteren Bescheid. Für Fragen stehen wir Ihnen gerne zur Verfügung.

Mit freundlichen Grüssen





### Beilagen:

- Anmeldeentwurf
- Diskette

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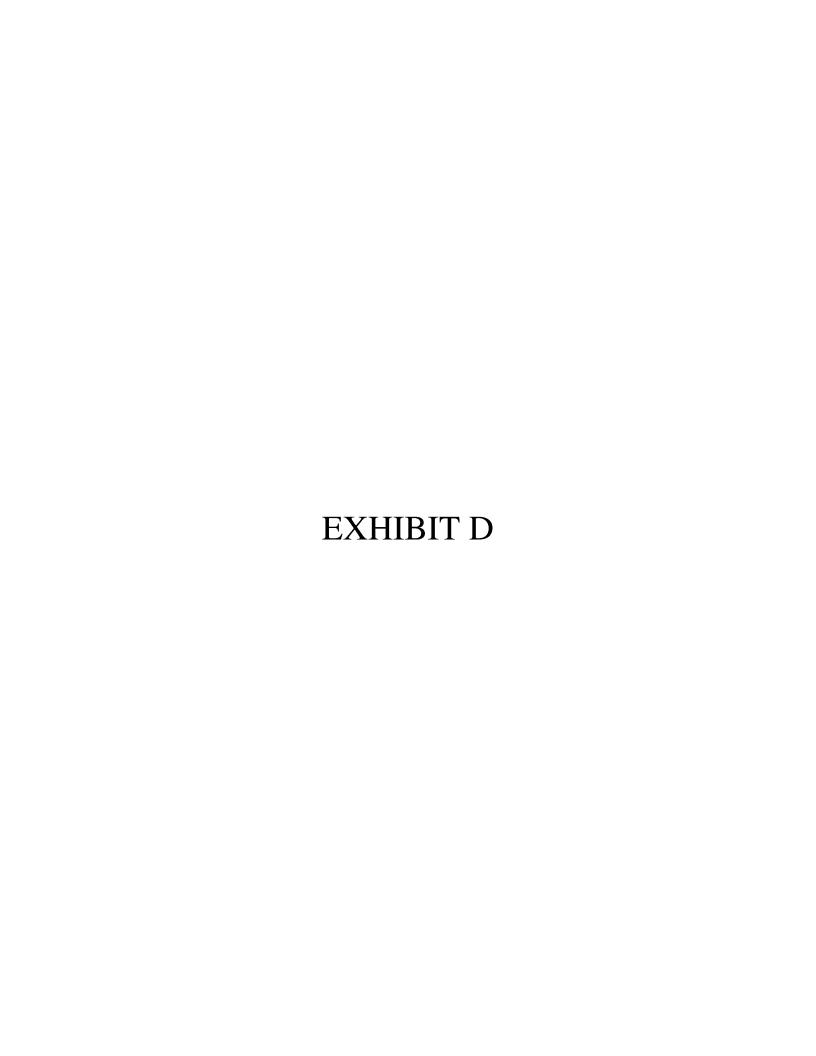
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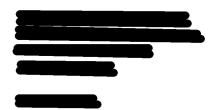
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Ihr Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom: 07.01.2003

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Datum:

04.02.2003

Neue Patentanmeldung "Screw insert insertion tool" B02/178-0

Sehr geehrter

In der Anlage sende ich Ihnen den von den Erfindern korrigierten Entwurf für die geplante Neuanmeldung zu mit der Bitte um Anfertigung von einreichungsfertigen Unterlagen. Bitte beachten Sie auch die Änderungswünsche in den Fig. 1-3.

Vielen Dank im voraus.

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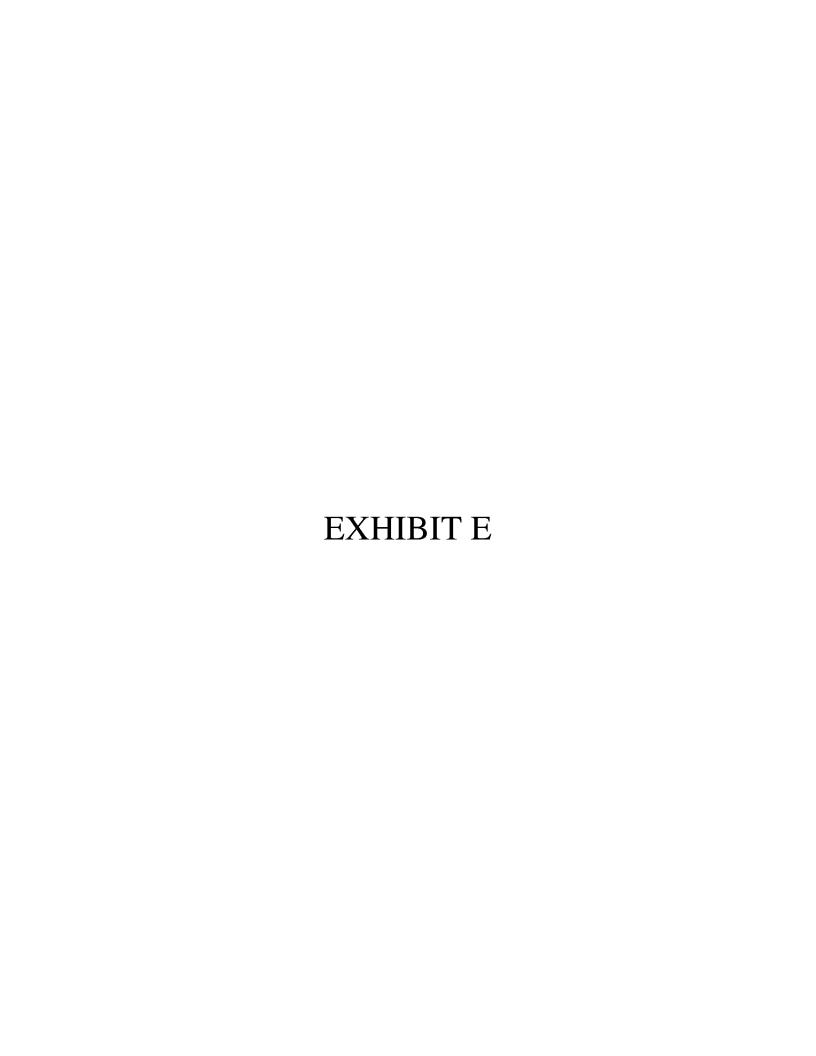
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**CHSP Intellectual Property** 

Dr. Evamaria Pöpper

Anlage: wie erwähnt

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\* European Patent Attorney

\*\* Rechtsanwalt - Attorney - at-Law

\*\*\* Rechtsanwalt

(zugelassen in Deutschland)

Telefax Nr.: 056 205 66 20

thre Ref. / your Ref. B02/178-0

Uns. Ref./our Ref.
Datum/Date

5. Februar 2003

### Screw insert insertion tool

Sehr geehrte Frau Dr. Pöpper

In der Beilage erhalten Sie unseren geänderten Entwurf für die geplante Neuanmeldung in Papierform und auf Diskette mit unserer Abrechnung.

Wir danken für Ihren Auftrag.

Mit freundlichen Grüssen

### Beilagen

Anmeldeentwurf Diskette Rechnung